



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

ship and the Society a specimen of the encaustic upon paper, being a bird drawn by Mr. George Edwards, a fellow of this Society, on paper prepared with a ground of whitening and fish-glew, painted with water colours, and then the wax, &c. burned in. This will roll up as easily as common paper, without cracking the varnish. There are also two landscapes, painted by a young lady, after the same manner, on wood. These will fully evince all I advanced in that paper.

I am, my Lord, with the greatest respect,

Your Lordship's most humble Servant,

Budge-row,
April 5, 1759.

Josiah Colebrooke.

X. An Account of a particular Species of Cocon, or Silk-pod, from America. By the Reverend Samuel Pullein, M. A.

Read Mar. 8, 1759. **H**AVING lately seen the aurelia of a particular species of caterpillar, I judged, from its texture and consistence, that there might be procured from it a silk not inferior to that of the common silk-worm in its quality, and in its quantity much superior. I have made some experiments on this new species of silk-pod, which strengthen this opinion.

This pod is about three inches and a quarter in length, and above one inch in diameter ; its outward form not
so

so regular an oval as that of the common silk-worm ; its consistence somewhat like that of a dried bladder, when not fully blown ; its colour of a reddish brown ; its whole weight 21 grains.

Upon cutting open this outer integument, there appeared in the inside a pod completely oval, as that of the silk-worm. It was covered with some floss-silk, by which it was connected to the outer coat, being of the same colour. Its length was two inches ; its diameter nearly one inch ; and its weight nine grains.

The pod could not be easily unwinded, because it was perforated by the moth : but, upon putting it in hot water, I reeled off so much as sufficed to form a judgment of the strength and staple of its silk.

The single thread winded off the pod in the same manner as that of the common silk-worm ; seeming in all respects as fine, and as tough. I doubled this thread so often as to contain twenty in thickness ; and the compound thread was as smooth, as elastic, and as glossy, as that of the common silk-worm. I tried what weight it would bear ; and it bore fifteen ounces and a half, and broke with somewhat less than sixteen, upon several trials. I then tried a thread of the common silk-worm, which was also composed of twenty (in thickness it rather exceeded the other) ; and it broke always with fifteen ounces.

I boiled a part of the *cocoon* in water, for the space of four hours, that I might know whether it was composed of a gum in any sort mucilaginous ;
and

and I found that it was as indissoluble as that of the common silk-worm.

The common silk-pod, with all its floss, weighs usually but three grains: and here is a pod which weighs seven times as much. If the outer coat, which weighed twelve grains, were all to be used only as floss-silk, there remain nine grains, capable of being reeled; which is above three times as much as can be reeled from the common *cocoon*. But I am of opinion, that when the pod is fresh, and not hardened by age, the whole outer coat may be reeled off: for the pod on which I made these trials was seven or eight years old.

Upon enquiry, I have found that the moth of this pod is called the *Isinglass* by Marian. It is a very large moth, being five inches from the tip of each wing extended. It differs from the silk-moth, in that it has a proboscis; which intimates that it feeds in its papilio state, whereas the silk-moth never eats.

The caterpillar which produces this pod is a native of America. It was found in Pennsylvania: the pod was fixed to the small branch of a tree, which seemed to be either of the crab or hawthorn species.

The leaf of the tree had also helped to support the pod; for the mark of its ribs was apparent on the surface of the pod.

I do not conceive that it will be at all difficult to find out the caterpillar, or the tree it feeds on; or to reel such a quantity of the silk as shall, when woven into ribband, more fully demonstrate whether it be of that value which I judge it. For by

comparing it with the *cocoon* of the wild Chinese silk-worm, from which an excellent species of silk is made, I have no doubt of its being the same species; and would be glad if, by this memorial, I could induce the people of America to make trial of it.

Samuel Pullein.